

U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/SE2004/000424
Inventor: Jan KASSIBRAHIM
Title: A SET OF TEATCUPS, AND A MILKING MEMBER
Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A set ~~comprising of a~~ four of teatcup liners (4, 5) for a milking member including a claw (1) and four teacups (2) to be attached to a respective teat of an animal to be milked, each teatcup liner (4, 5) having a liner portion (8) adapted to be comprised in one of said teacups (2) and a conduit portion (5) adapted to extend between the respective teatcup and the claw, wherein the conduit portion (9) of each teatcup liner has at least one property influencing the operation of the teatcup liner during milking, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said property of the conduit portion (9) of a first pair of the four teatcup liners (4) differs in a predetermined manner from said property of a second pair of the four teatcup liners (5), and that said property ~~includes at least one~~ is selected from the group consisting of the length of the conduit portion (9), the flexibility of the conduit portion (9) and the straightness of the conduit portion (9), and combinations thereof.
2. (currently amended) The set according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the teats of animal include rear teats and forward teats, and wherein the first pair of said teatcup liners (4) is adapted to be attached to the rear teats of the animal and the second pair of said teatcup liners (5) is adapted to be attached to the forward teats of the animal.

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3. (currently amended) The set according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that claim 1, wherein~~ said property includes the length of the conduit portion (9), wherein the length of the first pair differs from the length of the second pair by a predetermined distance (14).
4. (currently amended) The set according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the teats of the animal include rear teats and forward teats, and wherein the predetermined distance (14) corresponds to the length difference between the rear teats and the forward teats of the animal.
5. (currently amended) The set according to claim 4, ~~characterised in~~ wherein the length of the first pair is shorter than the length of the second pair.
6. (currently amended) The set according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ said property includes the flexibility of the conduit portion (9), wherein the flexibility of the first pair differs from the flexibility of the second pair by a predetermined value.
7. (currently amended) The set according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flexibility of the first pair is higher than the flexibility of the second pair.

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8. (currently amended) The set according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~ said property includes the straightness of the conduit portion (9),
wherein the straightness of the first pair differs from the straightness of the second pair by
a predetermined value.
9. (currently amended) The set according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
straightness of the second pair is higher than the straightness of the first pair.
10. (currently amended) The set according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each conduit
portion (9) of the first pair of teatcup liners (4) has a slightly S-like curvature in such a way
that the distance between the conduit portions (9) at the upper end in the proximity of the
teatcup (2) is shorter than at the lower end in the proximity of the claw (1).
11. (currently amended) The set according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterised in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein each teatcup liner (4, 5) is one moulded piece.
12. (currently amended) The set according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~ the set includes a member (20) for keeping the teatcup liners (4, 5)
together prior to the mounting of the liners in the milking member.

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13. (currently amended) A milking member ~~including~~ comprising a claw (1), four teatcups (2) and a set of a four of teatcup liners (4, 5), each teatcup liner (4, 5) having a liner portion (8) comprised in one of said teatcups (2) and a conduit portion (9) extending between the respective teatcup (2) and the claw (1), wherein the conduit portion (9) of each teatcup (4, 5) has at least one property influencing the operation of the teatcup liner during milking, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said property of a first pair of the four teatcup liners (4) differs in a predetermined manner from said property of a second pair of the four teatcup liners (5), and that said property ~~includes at least one of~~ is selected from the group consisting of the length of the conduit portion (9), the flexibility of the conduit portion (9) and the straightness of the conduit portion (9), and combinations thereof.
14. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the teats of the animal include rear teats and forward teats, and wherein the first pair of said teatcup liners (4) is adapted to be attached to the rear teats of the animal and the second pair of said teatcup liners (5) is adapted to be attached to the forward teats of the animal.

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15. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 13, wherein ~~any one of claims 13 and 14, characterised in that~~ said property includes the length of the conduit portion (9), and wherein the length of the first pair differs from the length of the second pair by a predetermined distance (14).
16. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the teats of the animal include rear teats and forward teats and wherein the predetermined distance (14) corresponds to the length difference between the rear teats and the forward teats of the animal.
17. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterised in~~ the length of the first pair is shorter than the length of the second pair.
18. (currently amended) The milking member ~~according to any one of claims 13 to 17, claim 13,~~ wherein characterised in that said property includes the flexibility of the conduit portion (9), wherein the flexibility of the first pair is higher than the flexibility of the second pair.

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20. (currently amended) The milking member according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 19,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 13, wherein said property includes the straightness of the conduit
portion (9), wherein the straightness of the first pair differs from the straightness of the
second pair by a predetermined value.
21. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 20, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the straightness of the second pair is higher than the straightness of the first pair.
22. (currently amended) The milking member according to claim 21, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein each conduit portion of the first pair of teatcups liners (4) has a slightly S-like
curvature in such a way that the distance between the conduit portions (9) at the upper end
in the proximity of the teatcups (2) is shorter than at the lower end in the proximity of the
claw (1).
23. (currently amended) The milking member according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 22,~~
~~characterised in that~~ wherein each teatcup liner (4, 5) is one moulded piece.